

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05 TRSE-00 PC-01

OMB-01 IO-10 /092 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7763

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 0912

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, TZ, RH, ET, UK

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH NYERERE

1. HORACE PHILLIPS, PRESENTLY UK AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY AND FORMER UK HICOMM IN TANZANIA (68-72), PAID PRIVATE VISIT TO DAR ES SALAAM MARCH 25-29. WHILE HERE PHILLIPS MADE COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT NYERERE WITH WHOM HE HAS MAINTAINED CLOSE RELATIONS. IN DE-BRIEFING OF AMBASSADOR CARTER, PHILLIPS MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON NYERERE CONVERSATION.

2. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

EVERYTHING NOW DEPENDS ON RAINS: IF THEY COME ADEQUATELY THERE
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IS JUST A CHANCE OF BEGINNING TO GET OUT OF THE PRESENT DISASTROUS

SITUATION IN WHICH THE DIMINISHING FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES HAVE TO BE USED FOR THE IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS. FRIENDS ARE HELPING - CANADA WAS NAMED - BUT SHORTFALL IS GROWING. RURAL DEVELOPMENT IS STILL NO. 1 PRIORITY. TURNING EVERY AVAILABLE ACRE OVER TO FOOD. EXHORTING EVERYONE TO GROW ON HIS OWN SHAMBA. AT THE SAME TIME UJAMAA DEVELOPMENT MUST GO AHEAD - BUT AS SOMETHING ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE, NOT FORCED ON THEM: IT CONTINUES TO BE A SLOW BUSINESS.

3. THE ECONOMY

THE ALREADY LOW LEVEL OF THE ECONOMY IS INEVITABLY DEPRESSED BY WORLD INFLATION AND RISING COST OF OIL. IN TANZANIA THE PROBLEM IS NOT ONLY THE TRADE DEFICIT BUT THE ALARMING RUNDOWN OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES. AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS BEFORE EASTER THESE WERE DOWN TO SH. 230 M - ABOUT TWO WEEKS' IMPORTS. IMPORTS HAD BEEN CUT TO THE BONE: FURTHER CUTS WERE FEASIBLE ONLY AT THE EXPENSE OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - WHICH WOULD BE A SHORT-SIGHTED POLICY. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE A WAY OUT; BUT ONE HAD TO BE FOUND, AND WOULD BE, IF THE RAINS CAME AND IF PEOPLE WORKED HARDER. ONLY IN THIS WAY COULD THE COUNTRY BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT AGAIN IN FOOD AND INCREASE ITS AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS (E.G., COTTON).

4. RHODESIA

IT LOOKED AS IF VORSTER WAS BEGINNING TO TAKE A MORE REALISTIC VIEW. HE HAD TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE NEW MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA, AND TO GET SMITH TO. BUT SMITH'S INFLEXIBILITY HAD SABOTAGED SOUTH AFRICA'S INTENTIONS, AND VORSTER WAS IN A DILEMMA. FOR HIS OWN PART HE WOULD PROBABLY LIKE TO PUT THE SQUEEZE ON SMITH. AND IF VORSTER WERE A DICTATOR HE COULD DO THIS. BUT IT WAS THE VERY FACT OF WHITE PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH AFRICA THAT TIED VORSTER'S HANDS. (AND OF COURSE SMITH ALSO HAD EXTERMES OF OPINION AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES TO CONTEND WITH.) HOWEVER ALL THIS MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE WORKED OUT BY THESE TWO, IT WAS BEING MADE CLEAR TO THEM THAT IN DEFAULT OF SOME SIGNS OF PROGRESS BLACK AFRICA WOULD AGAIN RESORT TO MORE ACTIVE MEASURES. MEANTIME THE AFRICAN CAUSE ITSELF WAS BEING DAMAGED BY DISUNITY AND DISARRAY IN THEIR OWN RANKS - OF WHICH THE ZANU LEADERSHIP AFFAIR WAS THE LATEST DEPLORABLE EXAMPLE.

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5. ETHIOPIA

ALTHOUGH HE HAD ALREADY DONE SO, HE WOULD AGAIN, AS REQUESTED, DO WHAT HE COULD TO PERSUADE THE REGIME IN ADDIS NOT TO CARRY OUT ANY MORE EXECUTIONS - AND PARTICULARLY NOT OF THE EMPEROR. IT WAS ONE THING TO ROOT OUT FEUDALISM; QUITE ANOTHER TO WREAK WHOLESALE BLOOD VENGEANCE. AND THE EMPEROR HAD A SPECIAL PLACE IN AFRICA AND THE WORLD. THEY SHOULD LET HIM GO: THERE WERE MANY COUNTRIES

WHO WOULD WILLINGLY TAKE HIM IN FOR HIS LAST YEARS.

6. RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN

IMPROVING - THOUGH RHODESIA INEVITABLY CONTINUED TO CAST ITS SHADOW. THE FIRST STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR BUYING OUT THE BRITISH FARMERS IN WEST KILIMANJARO WOULD BE COMPLETED NEXT WEEK. THE AID PROGRAM WAS GETTING UNDER WAY. NYERERE HAS NOW RECEIVED THE QUEEN'S INVITATION FOR HIS STATE VISIT (ALREADY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE) IN THE SECOND HALF OF NOVEMBER 1975.

7. GENERAL

GREYER, BUT FIT-LOOKING. AFFABLE AND ENGAGING AS ALWAYS. CHIPPER AND OPTIMISTIC, THOUGH AT TIMES PERHAPS WHISTLING IN THE DARK. SERIOUS AND THOUGHTFUL WHEN IT CAME TO THE ECONOMY. RAIN - RAIN - RAIN - AND HARDER WORK FOR EVERYONE -

8. FOR SOUTH AFRICAN POSTS: PHILLIPS (AND WIFE) NOW IN SHOUT AFRICA FOR THREE WEEK PRIVATE VISIT. THIS IS FIRST TRIP THAT PART OF CONTINENT AND HE MOST ANXIOUS SEE AND LEARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. ANY SMALL COURTESIES AND BRIEFINGS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. HE RETURNS DAR APRIL 19 EN ROUTE ANKARA. CARTER

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